Description: The Nez Perce Bio-Control Center is authorized by the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 and manages and establishes nurseries to increase biological control organism availability, distribute biological control organisms, monitor their impacts, and provide an increased number of annual technology transfer workshops to Cooperative Weed Management Areas and other landowners and managers regionally. This funding will continue the partnership between USDA and the Nez Perce Tribe to maximize the effectiveness of implementing a complete bio-control of weeds program in an Integrated Weed Management strategy. The Center will increase the availability of agents for landowners and managers throughout the region. Biological control offers long-term management of invasive weeds and can be used with other integrated pest management approaches.

Project Name: Potato Cyst Nematode Research

Amount Received: $349,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: This funding would be used by the University of Idaho for research and development of means to eradicate and better protect the Idaho potato crop from the soil-borne pathogen potato cyst nematode, hardened nematode bodies filled with eggs which can persist in the soil for up to 25 years. Current eradication depends upon methyl bromide, which is not totally effective and which may be banned because of its ozone depleting properties, as well as other chemicals which are even less effective and several of which may also be banned. The funds will be used to maximize the efficiency of methyl bromide while it is available and develop new ''green'' replacement eradicants (such as green manure or biologically derived nematicides) and procedures (advance hatching frequency), as well as to improve planting material screening procedures and to study plant-vector-virus relationships, which may also lead to new ways to fight potato viruses. Previous funding established the groundwork and prepared the University of Idaho to fully implement the needed research. This project will work in concert with the ongoing USDA eradication program by providing new methods of treatment. This crop pest can result in 80% yield reductions and has negatively affected agricultural trade. There is a good chance that if this threat is addressed with adequate research and treatment it can be eliminated.

Project Name: Small Fruit Research, ID, OR, WA

Amount Received: $307,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: The Small Fruits Initiative-Plant Improvement project will build upon the strengths of existing cooperative research programs aligned through the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research. This ongoing tri-state program supports the development of small fruits as an alternative agriculture crop in the Pacific Northwest. The funding will strengthen existing programs throughout the region and add key programs to fill in critical gaps that are not met by the existing infrastructure associated with the Center, providing key resources for Idaho scientists to address problems that negatively impact the emerging berry, grape, and wine industries in the Northwest.

Project Name: STEEP IV—Water Quality in the Northwest

Amount Received: $444,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: Soil erosion affects 10 million acres of cropland in the Inland Pacific Northwest, reducing farm productivity. STEEP is a coordinated research and technology transfer program designed to develop and implement erosion control practices for agriculture. Emerging environmental and human health concerns also require control of erosion and other environmental impacts of agriculture. New strategies and cropping systems for the protection of soil, water, and air resources are being developed and assessed through collaborative research conducted by scientists in the Pacific Northwest. The STEEP program continues to provide Pacific Northwest farmers and supporting agribusiness entities the new conservation technologies, tools, and understand to meet with evolving demands of agriculture, the environment, and Pacific Northwest residents.

Project Name: Tri-State Predatory Control

Amount Received: $926,000

Account: USDA/APHIS

Recipient: USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service

Recipient's Street Address: 9134 West Blackeagle Drive, Boise, ID 83709

Description: This project would continue assistance to Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming to control wolves and other predators. The Yellowstone wolf population has reached levels 3 to 4 times the initial recovery goals, leading to a delisting from the ESA earlier this year for the wolves in Idaho and Montana and leaving states responsible for managing the increasing wolf populations. As a result, ranchers are facing increasing threats from these predators. The continuation of this program will ensure that the tri-state area will be able to address predator management.

Project Name: Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research

Amount Received: $275,000

Account: USDA/ARS

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: The Small Fruits Initiative-Plant Improvement project will build upon the strengths of existing cooperative research programs aligned through the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research. This ongoing tri-state program supports the development of small fruits as an alternative agriculture crop in the Pacific Northwest. The funding will strengthen existing programs throughout the region and add key programs to fill in critical gaps that are not met by the existing infrastructure associated with the Center, providing key resources for Idaho scientists to address problems that negatively impact the emerging berry, grape, and wine industries in the Northwest. Funding would be provided to the University of Idaho through the USDA ARS facility located at 29603 U of I Lane, Parma, Idaho 83660. Biological control offers long-term management of invasive weeds and can be used with other integrated pest management approaches.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects I requested that are included in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2997, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY2010 and provide an explanation of my support for them.

NEW YORK TIMES WEIGHTS POLL IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the New York Times reported recently that President Obama has ''considerable political strength.''

The Times' based this statement on its own poll, which found the President has an approval rating of 56 percent—a higher number than any other poll has found recently.

One reason for this might be that the Times weighted the poll in favor of Democrats.

Among those who actually responded to the poll, there were more Democrats than Republicans by 6 percentage points.

But when the Times finished computing the results, they had increased the gap to an unreasonable and inexplicable 15 percentage points.

With so many more Democrats in the sample, it should come as no surprise that the President's approval rating is a higher than other polls have found.

The Times would do well to show more balance in their polling—and their reporting.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 800, H. RES. 816, AND H. RES. 810, EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA, AND INDONESIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING NATURAL DISASTERS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I extend my support for H. Res. 800, H. Res. 816, and H. Res. 810, which express sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma, for the people of American Samoa and Samoa in the aftermath of an earthquake and tsunami, and for the citizens of Indonesia after a devastating earthquake.

On September 26, 2009, Tropical Storm Ketsana made landfall in the Philippines. Rain and flooding submerged 80 percent of the capital city, Manila, took 277 lives, forced 135,470 families into evacuation centers, and destroyed over 4,500 homes. Typhoon Parma hit the islands several days later on October 2, 2009 and caused further damage.

On September 29, 2009, a powerful earthquake struck below the ocean 140 miles